

## **Testimony on H.B. No. 5415**

### **An Act Concerning the Air Line Trail**

Submitted to the Environment Committee

By

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My husband and I live in Middletown, CT with our 2-year-old daughter. We bicycle and walk as part of our daily transportation, to work, daycare, restaurants, pharmacy, etc. I am writing in strong support of HB 5415. In addition to being a cultural treasure for our state, I feel particularly strongly that this resource is sorely need in our community as a transportation connection.

My mother (and the part-time caregiver for my child) lives across the river in Portland and my family and I regularly travel across the river and points east. At this point, all of those trips are by car because we are concerned for our safety otherwise. We want to be able to travel from downtown Portland (and eventually from our home in Middletown) through Portland to East Hampton and beyond by bicycle. With only one car in the family, this is important for our ability to get around and would be a great benefit to our health and well-being.

I urge the committee to support HB 5415 as I believe it is very important to connect the 17 miles of existing trail to downtown Portland, the Arrigoni Bridge, and Middletown.

Thank you for your time,

Laura Baum

